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New Literature

The most important books listed in these columns will receive notice in the book-review page

OLD TESTAMENT

BOOKS

VOLZ, PAUL. Mose: Ein Beitrag zur Untersuchung über die Ursprünge der israelitischen Religion. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1907. Pp. vii + 115. M. 3.

A very able presentation of the relation of Moses to the beginnings of the Hebrew religion. The striking thing is that the author, utilizing the historical and comparative method, comes to the conclusion that Moses was a monotheist.

FLEMING, J. DICK. Israel's Golden Age. The Story of the United Kingdom. [Handbooks for Bible Classes and Private Students, edited by Marcus Dods and Alexander Whyte.] New York: Scribner's, 1907. Pp. 160. \$0.45.

This is an admirable textbook for adult Bible-classes. The standpoint of the author is historical; his spirit is profoundly religious. He possesses interpretative insight in a marked degree, and is master of a pleasing style. The difficulties of the narratives of this early period are frankly recognized and the religious limitations of the time are fully allowed for, but the emphasis of the book is on the positive and progressive elements in the history, rather than upon its defects and weaknesses. The historical judgment of the author is well balanced and his book may be highly commended to all teachers of Bible classes.

MCWILLIAM, THOMAS. Speakers for God: Being Plain Lectures on the Minor Prophets. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1907. Pp. xvi + 356. \$1 net.

This is a sympathetic exposition of the teachings of the Minor Prophets. It is written in clear, flowing style, and with a warmth of imagination that recalls the best work of George Adam Smith. The spirit of the book is historical and thoroughly sane. The critical conclusions are moderate and cautious. The distribution of space does not always commend itself, as, e. g., when Amos and Hosea are given only 24 pages each, while Micah receives 48 pages.

MATHESON, GEORGE. The Representative Women of the Bible. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, 1907. Pp. xiv + 269. \$1.50.

These are homiletical studies of Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Ruth, Hannah, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary the sister of Lazarus, and Mary Magdalene. It was the last work of the great preacher. The point of view is that of devotional and sermonic edification, rather than of critical and scholarly interpretation. It is characterized by all the sweetness and charm so dear to the lovers of this blind prophet.

Drew Sermons on the Golden Texts for 1908. Edited by EZRA SQUIER TIPPLe. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1907. Pp. vi + 312. \$1.25 net.

A series of sermons by the professors and graduates of Drew Theological Seminary. The sermons are expositions of the fifty-two "golden texts" of the International Sunday-School Lessons for 1908, half in the Old and half in the New Testament. In the very nature of the case the emphasis is upon homiletic considerations, rather than exegetical, and the sermons are of very unequal value.

ARTICLES

EERDMANS, B. D. De Kenieten en het Jahwisme. *Theologisch Tijdschrift*, November, 1907; pp. 492-507.

An attempt to account for the Kenites as a guild of blacksmiths who worshiped Jehovah as the fire-god and were scattered throughout the Semitic territory, occupying the fertile oases of the desert. The Cain and Abel story thus becomes a contest between the Kenite blacksmiths and the nomadic Semites. The germ of this hypothesis was planted by Sayce in his *Races of the Old Testament* and in the article "Kenites" in *Hastings' Dictionary*. For a criticism of the view see Nöldeke, art. "Amalek," in *Encyclopædia Biblica*.

DÖLLAR, J. Die Entblössung des Volkes Israel am Sinai. Exod. 32:25. *Biblische Zeitschrift*, November, 1907; pp. 352-58.

The words rendered "broken loose" and "had let them loose" in the story of the golden calf at Sinai should be rendered "were stripped naked," and "had stripped them naked." The story therefore testifies to the primitive custom of discarding garments at religious ceremonies as having been indulged in at this wild orgiastic feast.

HALÉVY, J. Le prophète Zacharie. *Revue Sémitique*, September, 1907; pp. 413-54.

A new translation, with explanatory notes, of Zech., chaps. 1-6.

VALETON, J. J. P., Jr. Jozua X:12-14. *Theologische Studien*, November, 1907; pp. 363-74.

A fresh study of Joshua's command to the sun and moon to stand still. Several points are made: (1) the passage does not say how long the sun stood still but only that about noonday the sun tarried in its course and the Hebrews were enabled to avenge themselves on the foe before nightfall; (2) that vs. 13a is a gloss, and the original text ran, "Sun stand still on Gibeon and thou moon in the valley of Ajalon until the people shall have avenged itself on its enemies;" (3) that only the words just translated belong to the citation from the book of Jashar, the remainder of the narrative is later; (4) that the original narrator would tell us (a) how Joshua in poetic terms called upon Jehovah for aid and (b) how Jehovah heard the cry of Joshua and fought for Israel so that a great victory was won in an incredibly short space of time; but that a later editor interpreted Joshua's figures literally and saw in the event an astronomical marvel.

NEW TESTAMENT

BOOKS

BENNETT, W. H. The Life of Christ According to St. Mark. New York: Armstrong, 1907. Pp. xi + 295.

Professor Bennett's object is "to present the impression of Christ which would be derived from St. Mark's Gospel by a reader who had no other source of information." His book is full of freshness and vigor, and is an interesting essay in interpretation.

RIGGS, J. S. The Messages of Jesus According to the Gospel of John; The Discourses of Jesus in the Fourth Gospel Arranged, Analyzed, and Freely Rendered in Paraphrase. [The Messages of the Bible.] New York: Scribner's, 1907. Pp. xvi + 374.

The subtitle hardly does justice to the useful introduction and extended notes which give this little volume much of its value. Professor Riggs holds that John the Apostle wrote the gospel toward the end of his Ephesian residence, i. e., late in the first century.

WORRELL, A. S. The New Testament Revised and Translated. With Notes and Introductions. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1907. Pp. iv + 396 + 26. \$1.25.

This somewhat eccentric work has evidently cost the author much labor, but his mechanical ideas of types and antitypes, and verbal inspiration, as well as his arbitrary principles of translation go far toward robbing it of all value. The brief introductions are worthless, and the notes are little better.